

Appl. No. : 10/790670
Filed : March 1, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIM

Please amend the claims as indicated:

1-2 (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) A method of fixing a first piece of bone to a second piece of bone as in Claim 2, comprising the steps of:

providing a pin having at least one laterally moveable distal anchor and a lumen extending therethrough;

advancing the distal anchor through the first piece of bone and into the second piece of bone while the distal anchor is permitted to move laterally inwardly as needed,

gripping with a deployment tool a proximal portion of a wire that extends axially through the lumen; and

moving with the deployment tool the wire axially through the lumen such that a distal portion of the wire resists radial inward deflection of the distal anchor, thereby locking the distal anchor with respect to lateral inward movement;

wherein the step of moving with the deployment tool the wire axially through the lumen comprises moving an outer body of the deployment tool with respect to a central body of the deployment tool; and

wherein the step of moving the first body of the deployment tool with respect to the second body of the deployment tool comprises one way ratchet-type motion.

4. (Currently amended) A method of fixing a first piece of bone to a second piece of bone as in Claim 2, comprising the steps of:

providing a pin having at least one laterally moveable distal anchor and a lumen extending therethrough;

advancing the distal anchor through the first piece of bone and into the second piece of bone while the distal anchor is permitted to move laterally inwardly as needed,

gripping with a deployment tool a proximal portion of a wire that extends axially through the lumen; and

moving with the deployment tool the wire axially through the lumen such that a distal portion of the wire resists radial inward deflection of the distal anchor, thereby locking the distal anchor with respect to lateral inward movement;

wherein the step of moving with the deployment tool the wire axially through the lumen comprises moving an outer body of the deployment tool with respect to a central body of the deployment tool; and

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wherein the step of gripping with a deployment tool a proximal portion of a wire comprises moving ends of a pair of lever arms toward each other.

5. (Original) A method of fixing a first piece of bone to a second piece of bone as in Claim 4, wherein the step of moving the ends of a pair of lever arms towards each other comprises applying a proximal force to an opposite end of the pair of lever arms.

6. (Original) A method of fixing a first piece of bone to a second piece of bone as in Claim 5, wherein the proximal force is, applied by the fingers of a hand holding the deployment tool.

7. (Original) A method of fixing a first piece of bone to a second piece of bone as in Claim 6, wherein the first outer and second central bodies of the deployment tool extend between at least the fingers applying the proximal force.

8. (Original) A method of fixing a first piece of bone to a second piece of bone as in Claim 7, wherein the palm of the hand holding the deployment device prevents proximal movement of the second central body with respect to the first outer body.

9. (Currently amended) A method of fixing a first piece of bone to a second piece of bone as in Claim 1, comprising the steps of:

providing a pin having at least one laterally moveable distal anchor and a lumen extending therethrough;

advancing the distal anchor through the first piece of bone and into the second piece of bone while the distal anchor is permitted to move laterally inwardly as needed,

gripping with a deployment tool a proximal portion of a wire that extends axially through the lumen; and

moving with the deployment tool the wire axially through the lumen such that a distal portion of the wire resists radial inward deflection of the distal anchor, thereby locking the distal anchor with respect to lateral inward movement;

wherein the step of gripping with a deployment tool a proximal portion of a wire comprises moving ends of a pair of lever arms toward each other.

10. (Original) A method of fixing a first piece of bone to a second piece of bone as in Claim 9, wherein the step of moving the ends of a pair of lever arms towards each other comprises applying a proximal force to an opposite end of the pair of lever arms.

11-26. (Cancelled)